From Sparks to FAX

By Richard R. Regent
5003 South 26th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53221

In addition to its helpful 24-hour information telephone hot line, 414-466-HAMS, the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club now has a 24-hour FAX number, 414-461-7730, which anyone can call to send written correspondence, questions and info to the MRAC!

Members can be contacted by radio on the MRAC repeater, W9RH, on 147.045 MHz, with a net on Fridays at 9:15 p.m. Other members are on the 28.4 MHz net on Fridays at 8:45 p.m.

The MRAC is the world's oldest continuously active radio amateur club - an old club with fresh innovative ideas. Club Secretary, Fred W9NZF, says, "We have been revitalizing the club, and encouraging new, younger members to become involved in club-related activities, and to make them feel welcome in a new *old* radio organization". The diamond anniversary, celebrating 75 years, of the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club held last year was a success. MRAC is actively affiliated with the ARRL.

They have fascinating programs including guest speakers, technical demonstrations, video tapes, and an occasional home-brewers raffle of old radio components, plus an improved newsletter (*Hamateur Chatter*). The club also has a radio school covering all license classes and volunteers who can give exams.

Club President Ed, W9PWG, reports the Christmas party had 82 people attending who enjoyed delicious food, beautiful music, fun, door prizes and pretty flowers. Everyone got a *Milwaukee Radio Amateurs Club from Spark to Space 75 Years* pen, compliments of Ed. After dinner, several appreciation awards were presented:

- **WB9LNU** - Updating club history, chairing special event stations; working on the two-meter repeater and demonstrating a 1917 spark transmitter.
- **WA9SFH** - Creating a database of members and mailing the newsletters.
- **KA9MTY** - Assisting with mailing newsletter.
- **KA9OFA** - Preparing and editing the newsletter, club program on surface mount technology.
- **W9VI K** - Taking the monthly club attendance.
- **W9JK** - Volunteering as an examiner at the license testing.
- **WB9BWP** - Overseeing the Charles Kaetel Radio School activities.

The Club operated two special event stations from the Ozaukee County Pioneer Village, which is a 1840-1900's living museum about 12 miles north of Cedarburg, commemorating their 75th anniversary. Village arrangements are made through the coordination of W9NZF who is also President of the Ozaukee County Historical Society.

The MRAC Field Day event was held at the well attended Village, which happens to be one of the highest points in the county, has wide open dry fields and plenty of antenna room. W9NZF remarked: "We had one of our off duty operators act as a tour guide in explaining what the heck was going on!" Two special events were also held from the depot of the Village in the Fall.

Many members gather on Saturday mornings at 8:30 for breakfast at Maxim's Restaurant to swap ideas over coffee and waffles. Their 10-meter net convenes on 28.4 MHz or on the MRAC repeater on 147.045 MHz every Friday at 9 p.m.

If you're in the Milwaukee area, check out the activities of the old, but new, MRAC. They meet on the last Thursday of the month, in the Wauwatosa Savings Bank basement, at 7500 West State Street, in Wauwatosa. If you need more information, ask them for their new brochure or just phone or FAX them. Best of luck to this fine group.

Post-it® Fax Note 7671 | Date 6-21-95 | # of pages ▶ 1
To Fred Linn | From Ed Hille
Co. | Co. SVS
Phone # | Phone # 461-7442
Fax # 377-3280 | Fax # 461-7733

and ts t PR

Week officially kicks off on June 18, the perfect time to highlight the hobby and let your community share in some of that Field Day enthusiasm.

In the next few weeks as you think of how you'll power up that Field Day station, think too of ways you can generate some great publicity.

Your PR effort will reap rewards for your club, the hobby and of course, help you rack up points towards that final Field Day score!

Here are some ideas to help get you started

Send press releases. Get them out to your local papers and radio stations. Don't forget to mention where folks can reach you beforehand, and then find you on Field Day.

Write a letter to the editor. The "Letters" section is one of the best read parts of a paper, so it's the perfect place to tell people about Amateur Radio Week. Extend an open invitation to stop by during Field Day and see what the hobby is all about.

Talk it up. Build ham radio awareness by speaking to schools, seniors or community groups.

Get the week proclaimed. Try to get the mayor to declare the week. And make sure your local paper gets a copy of the mayoral proclamation.

Call ARRL's PR department for a press kit. Complete with "backgrounders" on the hobby, sample mayoral proclamation and letter to the editor, it's an essential PR tool. (203-666-1541.)

Good luck and let the ARRL know how your publicity effort goes.

- Jennifer Hagy, N1TDY, ARRL Media Relations Assistant in *QSO Media*, May 1995

Take photos of your Field Day crew at work! Send some with your score to ARRL Headquarters, and send some to *BSSS*, too. ID all subjects with full name, call sign, club or group name, class of operation, and location of operation. Take photos that show something happening; make them tell a story. Photos for this pub go to K9ZZ. See page 2

From : SOUND AND VIDEO SERVICE
PHONE NO. : 461 7442
21 1995 2:30PM P02

Old But New: Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club

By Richard R. Regent, K9GDF
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The diamond anniversary celebration of the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club is just several months away. At 75 years, old the Club claims to be the world's oldest continuously active Radio Amateur Club, yet it doesn't have creaky bones or take afternoon naps. It's got more energy and activity as the years go by! For example, there are the spiced up meetings with interesting topics, a freshly-installed repeater, and new members on the Board of Directors.

Here's how to keep a club young. During this past year the MRAC held spring and fall sessions at their Amateur Radio license school for over 60 students. Upgrade classes will start in March at Methodist Manor on the "Sout' side," as W9NZF pronounces it. Newcomers can phone the MRAC special news line, 466-HAMS, to learn more about the exams, timely club information, or leave Amateur Radio related questions.

Then there's the separate MRAC/VEC Volunteer Examiners program in which W9JK, W9YCV and others have given 400 exams last year, with about 275 passing tests.

Besides QSOs on the air, members get together in several ways. They gather at Wauwatosa Savings and Loan for meetings, the last Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m., which usually attract about 50 people. Over a dozen members meet on Saturday mornings at 8:30 for breakfast at Maxims Restaurant. Also, there's the monthly Hamateur Chatter newsletter edited by KA9OFA, and the annual MRAC roster sent to all members. Their 10-meter net meets on 28.4 MHz, where about 20 amateurs check in every Friday at 9 p.m.

Recent teamwork has put a new MRAC repeater on 147.045 MHz, temporarily located at 76th and Appleton with a 60-foot high antenna, while work continues to improve its performance.

Each June, the Club operates Field Day as a practical way to get members and visitors involved on packet, CW, SSB, or to enjoy the food and fun. One of the latest MRAC plans is to hold their own swapfest.

We'll certainly have to stay tuned to see what special event the MRAC 75th anniversary will bring. Although Club President, old timer W9PWG, isn't old enough to have been a member since the MRAC began, he does need to carry a reminder list of his many club helpers. Everyone wants to help!

If you're in the Milwaukee area, check out the activities of the old, but new, MRAC.

Best of luck to this fine group! □